



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2004
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 1162

Chairperson: Kermit A. Brashear
Committee: Judiciary
Date of Hearing: February 12, 2004

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 1162 would amend provisions relating to the funding for law enforcement training which were changed by passage of LB 994 in 2000. LB 1162 is necessary because of unanticipated financial and logistical problems which have prevented development of a core curriculum which could be offered by our state colleges and universities in conjunction with a tuition based skills academy at the law enforcement training center in Grand Island. Until such a curriculum is available, LB 1162 would provide that the Law Enforcement Improvement Fund fee of \$2 would continue.

LB 1162 would amend section 81-1429 which now provides that the Law Enforcement Improvement Fund (LEIF) fee of \$2 taxed as costs in certain criminal proceedings would terminate January 1, 2007. LB 1162 would amend this section to provide that the termination date of January 1, 2007 would continue “except that if no training school as defined in section 81-1401 has begun to offer training in a pre-certification course approved by the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council by such date, the section shall not terminate until such a course is approved and offered by a training school.”

The Law Enforcement Improvement Fund is used for payment of administrative and operations expenses of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center and such other expenses as budgeted by the Legislature for the improvement of law enforcement. This funding is critically important and helps offset tuition costs for training law enforcement officers from municipalities and counties across the state. The tuition to provide basic training, room and board is approximately \$5,000. LB 994 was passed in 2000 and provides that the LEIF funds would continue to be used to transition from the current method of training to a tuition-based academy. LB 994 established a deadline of June 30, 2005 in section 81-1413 for the implementation of a tuition-based academy followed by the termination of LEIF funds in 2007.

The state's fiscal crisis in 2002 resulted in the elimination of full time employees that were required to begin the process of moving from the current method of training to training which would incorporate a core group of academic subjects taught by state colleges, community colleges, and universities with a skills academy which would be tuition based. Unfortunately,

moving toward the goal of establishing courses offered by our state colleges and universities to meet the learning objectives has proved to be more difficult than originally anticipated.

It is critical that LB 1162 pass this year because of the 2007 termination of the LEIF funds in current statute as well as a 2005 deadline. Section 81-1413 provides: “tuition, fees, and such other expenses incurred in the pre-certification and certification training of applicants shall be the responsibility of the person or his or her sponsoring agency, except that through June 30, 2005 such expenses may be financed by the training center through other appropriated funds...in order to transition to a tuition-based system.”

Efforts to establish a tuition-based system for training law enforcement officers which envisions a partnership between higher education and the law enforcement training center will continue. LB 1162 would provide that the LEIF fund will also continue until the curriculum and courses have been approved by the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council. The termination of the funds in LB 994 when the Legislature passed the bill in 2000 was with the understanding that the curriculum would be in place.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Mick Mines